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The Littlefield Fund for Southern History

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

HAZARD ADAMS, Assistant Professor of English, came recently from Cornell to join the University staff. His book *Blake and Yeats: The Contrary Vision* was published in 1955.

C. L. CLINE, Professor of English, has been granted a Research Professorship to work on the project (described in his article) for a collected edition of George Meredith's letters.

PAUL WALTER SCHROEDER, at present a Fulbright Fellow in Vienna, has recently been honored by the thousand-dollar Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American Historical Association for his study of American-Japanese relations in the years immediately preceding Pearl Harbor.

RUDOLPH WILLARD, Professor of English, has served as Visiting Professor at Columbia on several occasions. He is currently preparing a historical introduction for the volume of *Blickling Homilies* to be published in Copenhagen in the series *Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile*.

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The Littlefield Fund for Southern History

I. A History of the Littlefield Fund

PAUL WALTER SCHROEDER

[Editor's Note: This condensation of a study by Mr. Schroeder is the first in a series of articles on one of the Library's notable collections. The series has been made possible by the co-operation of Professor B. F. Lathrop of the Department of History, a Trustee of the Littlefield Fund.]

ONE ELEMENT of human interest in the history of the Littlefield Fund is found in the personality of its founder. The Littlefield Fund certainly illustrates the importance of having practical men of affairs to support academic projects, for Major George W. Littlefield was anything but an academician. Born in Mississippi and residing in Texas almost all his life, he served with distinction as a young man in the Civil War, rising through the Confederate ranks to the position of major and sustaining a severe wound in battle. After the Confederate defeat, he turned from cotton farming to cattle raising in Texas. Through hard work and business skill he accumulated a sizeable fortune in West Texas cattle and lands, with large holdings in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos regions. In 1890 he established the American National Bank in Austin, a project also entirely successful. By the turn of the century he was one of the wealthiest men in Texas. He became active on the fringes of politics, both state and local, and in 1911 became a member of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas. As such, he was one of Governor Ferguson's early supporters in his fight for control of the University, but later turned aside when he thought Ferguson had gone too far.¹

¹ An interesting and detailed life of Littlefield is J. Evetts Haley, *George W. Littlefield, Texan*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press for the Littlefield Fund, 1943.

Littlefield remains best known, of course, through his gifts to the University. He was one of its greatest benefactors. The bequests to the Littlefield Fund were only one of his gifts, and by no means the largest in point of monetary value. He donated \$230,000 for the purchase of the John H. Wrenn rare books collection in Chicago, now housed in The University of Texas Library. In his will he gave the University \$200,000 for a monument on the campus to Texas and Southern heroes; \$300,000 plus the land for the Alice Littlefield Dormitory; \$500,000 for the Main Building; and the eventual possession of his home adjoining the University campus.²

The Major's motives in all these bequests are clear enough. A self-educated man, he respected and believed in education; yet he was not devoted to the cause of scholarship *per se*. As President Robert E. Vinson said of Littlefield and his rival in benefactions to the University, George W. Brackenridge, "When Mr. Brackenridge spoke of The University of Texas he always emphasized the word *University*. Major Littlefield emphasized the word *Texas*."³ Major Littlefield, in other words, took pride in the University as a civic and state asset. He regarded it as an institution which should serve the aims and interests of his state and section. His attitude is revealed in a letter to Dr. Eugene C. Barker, Professor of American history at the University. Barker had written Littlefield seeking to enroll him as a member of the Texas State Historical Association. Littlefield responded with a check for life membership dues, appending the following comment:

I wish to say to you as I believe you feel right towards Southern people, that a great many persons do not sympathize with movements of the Univerity [*sic*], as a great many of the Professors and teachers employed there seem to prefer giving their support to Norther [*sic*] institutions of this City. Not one, but dozens of times I have heard some of the best citizens say that the University needs a cleaning out, that it is politically rotten, and I hate to see such a feeling. The University is the biggest asset Austin can boast of. We are a Democratic State and a Democratic people and it

² *Ibid.*, 269-76.

³ Quoted in *ibid.*, 217.

seems to me those employed about the University should be in sympathy with the State and citizens . . .⁴

Barker's reply on this occasion was to defend the University and its personnel as being loyally devoted to the best interests of Texas and the South.⁵ He was soon, however, to be able to turn Littlefield's Texan and Southern feeling to good advantage. The Major was more than a loyal son of the South devoted to her welfare; he was also a complete believer in Southern principles of state rights and Jeffersonian Democracy. He was entirely convinced of the righteousness of the cause of the Confederacy, in which he had fought, and was bitter over the South's experience during Reconstruction. Moreover, he believed that the South and its cause were still receiving unfair treatment at the hands of Northern historians, whose books, to add insult to injury, were used as texts in Texas colleges.⁶ As a leader in Confederate Veterans' organizations, Littlefield was in contact with many other men who felt much as he did, and on more than one occasion conveyed their protests to Barker. Barker, however, was not one to dodge an issue with placating words. In a typically incisive and forthright manner he told Littlefield that the fault was not that of the historians, who tried to be fair, but of the South herself. The South had not exerted herself to collect the historical materials necessary to enable scholars to present her point of view.

The remedy for the situation [he said] is perfectly simple. In the last analysis it is merely a matter of money to collect the historical materials of the South, and time to use them. Until this collection is made the resolutions and protests of patriotic societies against the misrepresentation of the South are 'as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.'

Barker did not directly suggest that Littlefield underwrite such a collection, although this was undoubtedly in his mind. He only proposed that Littlefield broach the idea to other wealthy men in Texas who might be willing to sponsor it.⁷

⁴ Littlefield to Barker, Austin, Sept. 10, 1912, in Barker Papers, University of Texas Library.

⁵ Barker to Littlefield, Austin, Sept. 13, 1912, Barker Papers.

⁶ Haley, *Littlefield*, 207-8, 257-8.

⁷ Barker to Littlefield, Austin, Dec. 5, 1912, *ibid.*, 259-60.

Thus was the seed for the future Littlefield Fund planted. Barker's appeal was no impulsive shot in the dark. It was made with the knowledge and approval of Dean H. Y. Benedict of the University. Benedict especially liked the idea of a broad appeal to Confederate veterans and other men through Littlefield. "We need," he said, "not only the Major's money, but also the efforts of other people . . ."⁸

The initial suggestion, moreover, was followed up judiciously by further information and suggestions on just how such a fund might be set up, and how much it would require as endowment. Barker had prepared himself to supply such information by sending out a questionnaire to university libraries and historical commissions and societies all over the South and in some parts of the North. His questions were aimed at finding out how much the various institutions were spending for Southern materials, what repositories for this material there were, and how much money would be needed to gather a representative collection from the various states. Question 11 got to the heart of the matter: "What, in your opinion, is the cure for histories unfair to the South?"

The answers Barker received, while helpful, were not always encouraging. In regard to question 11, most correspondents felt that only time would heal this wound; one commented frankly, "It should be noted that much of the cry for 'fair' histories is a demand for histories that are unfair to the other side."⁹ As to the money required, Barker found much to bolster his contention that the South was grossly neglecting its own history. Most of the Southern institutions could spend only small sums, and frankly admitted that their collections were inadequate. The librarians and curators, moreover, considerably underestimated the probable cost of acquiring a representative collection of Southern materials. Their guesses ranged from several hundred to several thousand dollars to be required for their respective states. The reply Barker received from Reuben G. Thwaites, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, was far more realistic and sobering. According to Thwaites, no amount could be too large. The Wisconsin collection of Southern materials was worth perhaps a million dollars, and was still being

⁸ Benedict to Barker, Austin, Dec. 6, 1912, Barker Papers.

⁹ Prof. J. H. T. McPherson to Barker, Athens, Ga., n.d., Barker Papers.

augmented. A good sum would be \$200,000 to spend initially, with eight or nine thousand annually to follow. It would hardly be worthwhile, Thwaites thought, to start with less than \$25,000. But Barker might as well begin with the ten thousand he thought he could get, and use the two thousand annually thereafter. In time it might produce a collection that "would attract regional notice."¹⁰ This sound, if somewhat patronizing, advice may well have encouraged Barker to set his sights high in dealing with Littlefield.

Barker's proposal did not bear immediate fruit, but the Major certainly gave it careful consideration. In April, 1913, he wrote again to Barker conveying veterans' protests against a Northern history saying: "There has grown to be a very great opposition to Channings [*sic*] History over the State among the veterans. Quite a lot has been said and written about the book being used by the University." Apparently this was a familiar subject between the Major and Barker by this time. Littlefield remarked that he would try to satisfy the veterans with the same answer that Barker had given him previously in regard to Elson's history. Then, on Barker's suggestion regarding a collection of Southern materials, he commented, "I have been trying to see if a fund could not be gotten together to make a start in the direction you marked out . . ." Thus far, however, the Major could report no success in interesting others in the project.¹¹

By the spring of 1914, Littlefield was convinced that if the fund was to be established, he would have to do it. Moreover, he was impressed by Barker's idea that such a fund would make a splendid memorial to him. On March 27, he invited Barker to a conference to discuss setting it up. The details were worked out, largely according to Barker's suggestion, and on April 24 the initial gift was formally tendered to the Board of Regents of the University.

The original endowment amounted to \$25,000, consisting of four vendor's lien notes on land totalling \$24,739.20 and bearing interest at six per cent, plus \$262.80 in cash. The principal was to be kept intact and only the interest expended for the first twenty-five years, after which time the principal also was to become available for expenditure. The endowment was to be held in trust by

¹⁰ Thwaites to Barker, Madison, Wisc., Dec. 20, 1912, Barker Papers.

¹¹ Littlefield to Barker, Austin, April 30, 1913, Barker Papers.

the Board of Regents. Careful businessman that he was, however, Major Littlefield named his own committee to administer the fund, consisting of Mr. H. A. Wroe, his nephew and President of the American National Bank, as Chairman; Barker as Vice-Chairman; and the Librarian of the State Library, the Librarian of the University Library, and the President of the University as members.

Major Littlefield's main motive in endowing the fund, as has been noted, was his desire to see the South vindicated in historical writing. This was a fact well understood by the members of the committee.¹² Nevertheless, the terms of the gift were worded in such a way as to clear the project of any possible charge of sectional bias or provincialism, and to give a wide latitude to the committee in administering it. The money was to be used for the preparation of a history of the South since the beginning, with special attention to the period since 1860. The history was to record the "plain facts," "truthfully taught" and "fairly stated." It was further stipulated that

the committee which directs the purchase shall endeavor to lay with it the foundation of a collection that shall be of fundamental value for the full and impartial study of the South and of its part in American history.¹³

Thus Major Littlefield's interpretation of the purposes of the fund was a reasonably broad one. Dr. Barker's idea of its potential usefulness was even broader. In a letter to a Northern colleague in European history, he remarked:

Perhaps Doctor Lingelbach has told you of a gratifying bit of luck that I had the other day in securing a \$25,000 endowment for Southern history. I had to phrase it in this way, though in general it can be used for almost anything in American history, and will, of course, enable us to turn nearly all of our University appropriation, which this year was about \$1,500 into European history.¹⁴

¹² University Librarian J. E. Goodwin to Aull, Austin, Jan. 3, 1917, Littlefield Fund Papers (hereafter cited as LF Papers).

¹³ Littlefield to Ousley *et al.*, April 24, 1914, Littlefield Fund Minute Book (hereafter cited as Minute Book).

¹⁴ Barker to Prof. E. P. Cheyney, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Austin, April 11, 1914, Barker Papers. The apparent discrepancy in dates is explained by the fact that the bequest was first drawn up on April 11 and then revised and put in final form on April 24.

Needless to say, the bequest was accepted with gratitude, and the Littlefield Fund for Southern History came into existence. From the available records, it is not clear that the Littlefield Fund Committee (or Board of Trustees, as it later came to be called) had any regular schedule of meetings during the first years. It is clear, however, that the committee was active from May 6, 1914, on, and that meetings were called whenever the occasion warranted, which in the years up to Major Littlefield's death in 1920 was fairly frequently. J. E. Goodwin, University Librarian, was the committee's first secretary. An important addition was made to the committee in October, 1914, when Barker's colleague in American history, Dr. C. W. Ramsdell, was invited to become a member.¹⁵

Ramsdell was soon to give evidence of his worth to the committee. It was he who surveyed and negotiated the Fund's first major purchase. This was the acquisition of a large collection of newspapers, including ten volumes of the *Richmond Enquirer* from 1843 to 1865 and twelve volumes of the *Richmond Examiner*, 1849-1865, and other journals, from John Rutherford of Richmond, Va., for a total of \$1,150.00. The collection was undoubtedly a real find. The purchase also served to underline a fact which was to become increasingly apparent as time went on. The Fund's income, somewhat under fifteen hundred dollars a year, simply was not adequate to provide for purchases on the scale on which they would have to be made. The only recourse was a further appeal to Major Littlefield, who had already indicated that his generosity would not necessarily stop with the initial endowment.¹⁶

In this instance, Littlefield responded with a loan, advancing the Fund seven hundred dollars to enable it to make the Rutherford purchase and accepting a note against the next year's income.¹⁷ By the end of 1915, however, it was apparent that loans would not solve the problem. On January 5, 1916, Barker approached Littlefield with the suggestion that the endowment needed to be vastly increased, suggesting the figure of \$150,000 as adequate. The Major was not quite ready to take such a plunge, but he did agree

¹⁵ Ernest W. Winkler, "Calendar of Committee Letters, Reports, and Minutes," Oct. 23, 1931, Minute Book; Goodwin to Ramsdell, Austin, Oct. 20, 1914, LF Papers.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*; also various letters and papers in "Rutherford Papers," LF Papers.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

to an arrangement whereby he would underwrite the Fund's purchases to the extent needed above its regular income. On February 5, 1916, he confirmed the arrangement to Secretary Goodwin, informing him that he would pay for all items recommended by Barker, provided that the expenditure did not become too heavy. Nor was there any danger that Major Littlefield's generosity would be easily overburdened. His initial special gift to the Fund in May, 1916, was five thousand dollars. This was followed only two months later with another of \$1866.65. When, near the end of this same year, Barker again wrote Littlefield, citing quotations on manuscripts and current publications to show the prospective need of another forty-two hundred dollars, the Major replied simply, "Secure the data and I will pay the cash for same. Just as we did before. I trust you may be watchful and secure all data that may be useful for the History."¹⁸

Throughout the remaining years of the Major's life, the appeals continued to come in on the same scale and with the same frequency, and to be met with the same response. No request was refused. The following list shows Littlefield's special donations:

May 16, 1916	\$5,000.00
July 16, 1916	1,866.65
January 3, 1917	4,200.00
June 19, 1917	1,500.00
February 27, 1918	1,500.00
May 29, 1918	1,500.00
July 9, 1918	2,000.00
April 24, 1919	2,000.00
December 22, 1919	2,500.00
February 23, 1920	2,500.00
June 28, 1920	3,000.00
October 27, 1920	3,000.00

The grand total of the special gifts over a period of four and one-half years was \$30,566.65.¹⁹

The sum thus donated was, of course, an inestimable boon to the

¹⁸ Barker to Littlefield, Austin, Dec. 5, 1916; Littlefield to Barker, Austin, Dec. 8, 1916, both in LF papers; Winkler Calendar, Minute Book; Haley, *Littlefield*, 262-5.

¹⁹ Special Auditor's Report, May 4, 1939, LF Papers.

Fund. Dr. Barker was looking forward, however, to the time when these gifts would no longer be forthcoming—a time which, in view of the Major's advanced age, might be near. He had by no means given up his idea of a vastly increased permanent endowment to the Fund. In May, 1917, he once again broached the suggestion in a bold but tactful letter to Littlefield. Acknowledging the Major's generosity to date and his own confidence that it would continue throughout his life, Barker nonetheless pointed out the need for setting up the Fund on an adequate permanent basis. The high cost and difficulty of obtaining material made years of patient effort necessary. In the event of the Major's sudden death, the project might be retarded indefinitely. Some permanent provision needed to be made, perhaps in the Littlefield will. Barker once again reverted to his suggestion of \$150,000 as an adequate sum. The total could not possibly be made too large, he contended, for there was a great variety of purposes which the Fund could ultimately serve. Not only would it buy materials and publish the History, but possibly also endow a professorship in Southern history and sponsor other publications in the field.²⁰

It is not known to the writer just when Littlefield acted on Barker's suggestion, but it is clear that he took it to heart. It was not long before the trustees could be confident that future contingencies would be provided for. In December, 1919, the Major accompanied a gift of \$2,500 sent to Librarian Goodwin with an assurance that he would take care of the Fund after his death.²¹ Immediately after he died, income to be provided by his will was confidently expected. In December, 1920, Goodwin wrote President Vinson to request a special advance to the Fund from University funds, stating, "We trust that a way may be found to finance this project" until more income came "from permanent funds provided in Major Littlefield's will."²² As will be shown, the expectations were not disappointed.

The large sums donated and expended give a plain indication of the scope of Littlefield Fund acquisitions during this period. Without any doubt these were the most exciting years of the Fund's history. Almost every year, and sometimes more often, there was some

²⁰ Barker to Littlefield, May 11, 1917, Winkler Calendar, Minute Book.

²¹ Littlefield to Goodwin, Dec. 18, 1919, LF Papers.

²² Goodwin to Vinson, Dec. 3, 1920, LF Papers.

large acquisition, some big find. So much needed to be bought, so many valuable items turned up, that the greatest difficulty was deciding which ones to choose first, with the possibility existing that those passed by would not be available to be bought later. In the competition for valuable manuscripts, the Fund's *tour de force* was the occasion on which it outbid the Newberry Library of Chicago for a large collection of Charleston newspapers, ranging, with some gaps, from 1799 to 1910. It was to pay for these papers that the first two of Littlefield's special gifts were largely devoted.²³ Another important collection rescued by the Littlefield Fund from threatened Northern purchase was a large number of Confederate medical documents owner by Miss Kate P. Stout, purchased for \$750.00.²⁴

Not all the acquisitions were obtained by purchase, to be sure. Occasionally a loyal or historically-minded Southerner would offer newspaper or document collections to the Littlefield Fund.²⁵ The Committee made full use of its powers of persuasion to induce Texans and other Southerners to part with material in their possession, if not gratis, at least at a reasonable price.²⁶ As might be expected, the appeal failed more often than it succeeded. Moreover, there were times when the Fund could not purchase materials it wanted, or when it had to tell prospective sellers that it had already bought up to its quota, and could not consider any more offers for the time being.²⁷

Throughout this period, the main emphasis in acquisitions was on securing newspapers and other documentary sources. Considerable attention was also paid to completing the sets of the session laws of the various Southern states; adding to house and senate journals, and journals of constitutional conventions; and completing the collection of the statutes-at-large of the Confederate States of America.²⁸ Nevertheless, many small items and current publications

²³ Winkler to Goodwin, Charleston, S.C., June 17, 1916; Barker to Goodwin, St. Paul, Minn., June 21, 1916; Auditor W. R. Long to Goodwin, Austin, July 26, 1916, all in LF Papers.

²⁴ Goodwin to Stout, Austin, June 1, 1916, LF Papers.

²⁵ Goodwin to Mrs. M. R. Litten, Austin, Feb. 13, 1920, LF Papers.

²⁶ Many letters by Goodwin in "Old Correspondence, 1916-18" file, LF Papers.

²⁷ Goodwin to Statute Law Book Co., Austin, Sept. 7, 1916, LF Papers.

²⁸ Librarian's report, May 31, 1918, LF Papers.

were also acquired. As was natural, Librarian Goodwin informed prospective sellers that the Fund was especially interested "in items on the Civil War and the questions leading up to that conflict."²⁹ Occasional purchases, however, seem to reveal a very elastic concept of what constitutes material for Southern history. Such items as Mateos's *Historia Parlamentaria de los Congresos Mexicanos de 1821 a 1857* in eleven volumes appear in early lists of acquisitions.³⁰ Goodwin himself justified a flexible purchase policy with the quite sound argument that

The literature for the history of the South is only in part a separate literature, and in building up a research library to satisfy the needs of the investigator the history of the whole country is quickly involved.³¹

By 1920 he could report that the proportion of obvious items needed for the collection was now greatly reduced, so that the search for desirable acquisitions had to be intensified.³²

The acquisition of materials on such a large scale (from 1914 to 1921 the Fund spent over \$40,000 for book purchases, a sum not equalled in any like period since) naturally involved a great amount of work. The chief burden of this work fell on the University of Texas Librarian, Mr. Goodwin, and the State Librarian, Ernest W. Winkler, although Dr. Ramsdell was also involved to a certain extent. The volume of work these two men accomplished is astounding, especially considering the fact that each of them had other important duties to carry out besides those of the Littlefield Fund. Goodwin did most of the correspondence with dealers and prospective sellers all over the country, while Winkler travelled widely to investigate holdings and make purchases. Both of them evidently exercised great care to avoid duplications, find missing items, and check on shipments. Neither was disposed to part with Littlefield money for anything less than its real worth. One trip made by Winkler in July, 1917, is evidence both of his frugality and the cost of living in an era now lost beyond recall. The trip lasted from July 15 to July 26, and took Winkler to seven cities in four dif-

²⁹ Goodwin to Gittman's Book Store, Austin, April 4, 1916, LF Papers.

³⁰ Goodwin to Barker, Austin, April 19, 1916, LF Papers.

³¹ Librarian's Report, 1918, as cited.

³² Librarian's Report, May 31, 1920, LF Papers.

ferent states—Memphis, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Vicksburg, Jackson, and Houston. The total cost for all expenses, including transportation, food, and lodging, on the twelve-day trip was \$62.70.⁸³

On November 10, 1920, the initial era of the Littlefield Fund came to an end with the death of its founder at the age of 78. He provided for the Fund as amply in death as he had in life. Section 5 of his will contained a bequest of \$100,000 for the Littlefield Fund, to be devoted to the same purposes as the original endowment. On May 13, 1921, the committee received from the Littlefield estate \$100,000 in American Telegraph and Telephone Company bonds. It resolved to keep the principal of this gift intact until April 1, 1933, when, according to the committee's reckoning, the principal of the original gift would become available.⁸⁴

From this time on the Fund was assured a steady annual income of approximately four thousand dollars. It was neither possible nor necessary to continue to buy at the rate of previous year; the Fund was now able to go along steadily on an even keel, gradually accumulating materials. There was little or no change in the type of materials purchased, but a considerable change in volume of purchasing. A check of the number of items purchased annually (which, of course, provides only a very rough index to the growth in value of the collection) shows that in the years 1916 to 1922, annual purchases ranged from 1,391 to 4,391 items, with the average being 2,187. In the period 1923 to 1929, the range was from 822 to 1,595, with the average being 1,263. In the next period, for reasons which will be discussed shortly, purchasing declined still more sharply, so that the low, high, and median figures for 1930–1938 were 169, 650, and 377 respectively. By 1939, the grand total of items stood at 25,805—a figure somewhat misleading because it included books, pamphlets, and bound volumes of newspapers, but not the many miscellaneous items, such as broadsides, maps,

⁸³ Numerous vouchers and letters in "Old Correspondence, 1916–18" file, LF Papers.

⁸⁴ Section 5 of Littlefield's Last Will and Testament, Minute Book; minutes, May 13, 1921, *ibid.* According to my reckoning, the year in which the original \$25,000 would become due would be 1939, twenty-five years after its original donation.

photographs, manuscripts, and photostats.⁸⁵ As ever, a great many of the purchases were small ones culled from hither and yon. One list by Winkler, for example, shows forty-two articles purchased from a bookstore in San Antonio, ranging in price from \$0.25 to \$3.00 each.⁸⁶

The lessened tempo of purchasing did not mean that the Fund always had plenty of cash at its disposal. It sometimes happened that a very desirable large item became available at a time when the Fund's cash reserve was low. On three occasions between 1928 and 1930, the Fund was forced to secure an advance on its income from the University, once for \$750 and twice for \$2,500.⁸⁷ The depression, too, had some impact even on the impregnable position of the Fund. In 1930, a proposal by Winkler that the University buy \$5,000 worth of materials for the Fund out of Available Fund or General Fund money was rejected on grounds of the need for general retrenchment.⁸⁸

In 1933 the provision of \$2,000 a year for a publications reserve fund paved the way for new endeavors which were actually put into motion in 1937. There was considerable discussion of new ways to apportion funds, find otherwise inaccessible materials, and sponsor publications.⁸⁹ Out of this in 1937 came decisions to launch three important projects. One of these was the Ramsdell film project. It is the easiest to describe briefly, not because it was not important, but because it represented the smallest commitment of money and time that the Fund had to make among the three. It will, therefore, be discussed first.

The project was the brain child of Dr. Ramsdell, who also directed it. In May, 1937, he proposed securing otherwise unobtainable material in manuscripts, pamphlets, and books by microfilming. To carry out the work of seeking and selecting materials in various

⁸⁵ Winkler to Barker, Austin, Oct. 10, 1928; acquisitions report, Feb. 2, 1939, in "Purchase Report" file, LF Papers.

⁸⁶ "Purchase Report" file, LF Papers.

⁸⁷ Winkler to President H. Y. Benedict, Austin, Sept. 7, 1928; Auditor Simmons to Winkler, Austin, Oct. 5, 1928; Winkler to Benedict, Austin, April 13, 1929; Winkler to Pace, Gore, and MacLaren, Nov. 6, 1930; Haynes to Winkler, Austin, Nov. 28, 1930; all in LF Papers.

⁸⁸ Benedict to Winkler, Austin, Sept. 30, 1930, LF Papers.

⁸⁹ Letters, Coney to Barker, Austin, June 5, 1937; memos by Coney and Winkler, June 6, 1937, LF Papers.

repositories throughout the country, Ramsdell proposed Barnes F. Lathrop, then a graduate student and now a Professor of History in the University. The project was approved, and Mr. Lathrop (whose wife worked with him) was hired for the summer of 1937.⁴⁰

The microfilming was thus initiated as primarily a Littlefield Fund project, though the University Library had supplied the camera. It soon, however, became a rather complicated joint affair. In the fall of 1937, Ramsdell secured a grant from the Bureau of Research in the Social Sciences to pay Lathrop's salary, the Fund contribution being reduced to the role of paying for one-half of the cost of film and processing.⁴¹ As Mr. Lathrop wrote,

The project is an undertaking of the University of Texas, directed by Professor Ramsdell, financed by the Bureau of Research in the Social Sciences and the Littlefield Fund for Southern History, and conducted in cooperation with the Library. Mrs. Lathrop and I are the itinerant agents who select most of the material and do all of the microfilming.⁴²

It is impossible here to describe the Lathrop's photographic peregrinations, which lasted, with some interruptions, from July, 1937, to September, 1939, and were resumed again for three months in the summer of 1940. Suffice it is to say that their travels and researches took them to such eminent libraries and repositories as the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.; the Massachusetts Historical Society Library; the Boston Public Library; the Boston Athenaeum; the Massachusetts State Library; the Yale University Library; the General Land Office, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress in Washington; the University of North Carolina Library; the Duke University Library; the Louisiana State University Department of Archives; the Mississippi State Department of Archives and History; the Alabama State Department of Archives and History; the North Carolina Historical Commission, Raleigh, N.C.; the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.; the Edward E. Ayer collection in the Newberry Library, Chicago; the Library of the McCormick Historical Association, Chicago (now in

⁴⁰ Minutes, May 28, 1937, Minute Book.

⁴¹ Minutes, Nov. 9, 1937, *ibid.*

⁴² Barnes F. Lathrop, "Microfilming Materials for Southern History," *Journal of Documentary Reproduction*, June, 1939, 91.

Madison, Wisconsin); the University of Virginia Library; and the Library of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.⁴³

The net results of their efforts can only be indicated statistically. Altogether, they photographed 399 rolls, or 39,900 feet, of film, including about 300,000 exposures and embracing perhaps 375,000 to 450,000 pages of material (the latter figure can only be very approximately estimated). Of these, all but one hundred rolls were of manuscript material. The rolls of printed material came chiefly from the Massachusetts State Historical Society, with some also from the Boston Athenaeum, the Massachusetts State Library, Duke University, and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas.⁴⁴ The Ramsdell films, it is safe to say, constitute one of the most valuable additions to the Littlefield collection, at really a very low cost to the Fund.

The second project the Fund launched in 1937, actually earlier than the microfilming undertaking, was of a quite different type. The suggestion had been made as long before as 1923 that the Fund should sponsor a biography of Major Littlefield.⁴⁵ It was not until late 1936, however, that the suggestion was taken up in earnest. There was some small doubt that the work might not come under the scope of the Fund, but this was easily overcome and the project generally favored by the trustees. Moreover, Barker had a man to recommend for the job of writing a life of Littlefield. He was J. Evetts Haley, West Texas cowman, historian, author of three books including *The XIT Ranch of Texas* and *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*.⁴⁶

From a literary and scholarly standpoint, the Haley biography, published in 1943, was a reasonable success. It undoubtedly fulfilled its purpose, which was that of supplying a colorful, interesting, and sympathetic account of Littlefield's life. While it was not a financial success, it was not expected to be. The total receipts in sales of the book, something over \$2,500, just failed to meet the costs of publication.⁴⁷

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 91-7; interview with Barnes F. Lathrop, April 23, 1956.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Winkler to H. A. Wroe, Austin, Dec. 12, 1923, LF Papers.

⁴⁶ Benedict to Coney, Austin, Dec. 22, 1936; memo, Coney to Winkler, Dec. 24, 1936; memo, Winkler to Coney, Dec. 30, 1936, LF Papers.

⁴⁷ "Littlefield Biography Project," Auditor's Report, Aug. 31, 1946, LF Papers.

These two projects, however, were on a minor scale compared to the third undertaking launched in 1937. This was the *History of the South* project, which became a major concern of the Littlefield Fund immediately and remains so to the present day. As we have seen, the writing of the History had been the original purpose of the Fund, and had been much discussed since 1914. The establishment of the publications reserve fund in 1933 had been carried out largely with it in mind. It was not until September, 1937, however, that a beginning on the History was definitely resolved on. Dr. Ramsdell was appointed to draw up a tentative program for the project. He came back a month later with a plan for a three-volume work, the volumes to be divided as follows:

I. 1783-1830, by T. P. Abernethy of Virginia.

II. 1830-1859, by E. M. Coulter of Georgia or F. L. Owsley of Vanderbilt University.

III. 1859-1877, by Ramsdell, who was also to be general editor of the project. Ramsdell's plan was approved, and he was instructed to approach the prospective authors about it.⁴⁸

Hardly had he begun to do so, however, when he discovered that others were in the field before him. Ramsdell himself received an invitation from Wendell H. Stephenson of Louisiana State University, managing editor of the *Journal of Southern History*, to contribute a volume of a ten-volume *History of the South, 1607-1940*, to be sponsored by the Louisiana State University Press. Moreover, Stephenson had already approached the same men Ramsdell had in mind. Clearly, there was an overlap between the two projects. Yet there was no need for competition, if cooperation could be achieved instead. Ramsdell was instructed by the trustees to point out the Fund's obligation and its resources to Stephenson, and to sound him out on making the History a joint project.⁴⁹

The idea met with a favorable reception from LSU, and also from a meeting held by Ramsdell and Stephenson with four of the prospective authors at Durham, N.C. The Littlefield Fund committee went on record as favoring the joint endeavor, suggesting Ramsdell as chief editor with Stephenson as associate, and wanting both the University of Texas and LSU Presses mentioned, along with the

⁴⁸ Minutes, Sept. 30, 1937, and Oct. 26, 1937, Minute Book.

⁴⁹ Minutes, Nov. 9, 1937, Minute Book.

Littlefield Fund sponsorship of the work.⁵⁰ Librarian Coney was delegated to draw up a memorandum outlining the project. The memorandum, which was discussed and revised in minor particulars in a meeting of February 6, 1938, detailed the work in a very comprehensive fashion. The titles it suggested for the various volumes have been changed only slightly in wording and dating since. The original and present versions are:

I. *The Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century, 1607–1689.* (Unchanged.)

II. *The Southern Colonies in the Eighteenth Century, 1689–1763.* (Unchanged.)

III. *The South in the American Revolution, 1763–1789.* (*The Revolution in the South, 1763–1789.*)

IV. *Founding the Southern System, 1789–1819.* (*The South in the New Nation, 1789–1819.*)

V. *The Development of Southern Sectionalism, 1819–1848.* (Unchanged.)

VI. *The Growth of Southern Nationalism, 1848–1861.* (Unchanged.)

VII. *The Southern Confederacy, 1861–1865.* (*The Confederate States of America, 1861–1865.*)

VIII. *The South in Reconstruction, 1865–1880.* (*The South During Reconstruction, 1865–1877.*)

IX. *Origins of the New South, 1880–1913.* (Now 1877–1913.)

X. *The Present South, 1913–1940.* (Now 1913–1946.)

The memorandum called for a broad and balanced treatment of various phases of history, in a style to be scholarly yet readable. Even some details of the physical make-up, style, design, editorial work, author's work, and division of costs and organization were discussed.⁵¹

In March, the trustees met with Stephenson and Marcus M. Wilkerson, director of the LSU Press. Coney's memorandum was fully discussed and many minor changes made, including some in regard to the joint imprint.⁵² From March to September, 1938, the

⁵⁰ Minutes, Dec. 13, 1937, *ibid.*

⁵¹ Memo by Coney, Jan. 24, 1938; Minutes, Feb. 6, 1938; Memorandum of agreement, Littlefield Fund with LSU Press, Feb. 7, 1938, *ibid.*

⁵² Minutes, March 14, 1938, *ibid.*

joint agreement passed through many legal steps and refinements of detail, until finally it was formally completed on September 27, 1938, one year to the day since the Fund had determined to begin the History. The main agents in negotiations were Coney and Wilkerson. Somewhere along the way the University of Texas Press dropped out of the picture, the project becoming simply the joint project of the LSU Press and the Littlefield Fund.⁵³

On this same day, September 27, Coney and Wilkerson were formally authorized to make contracts with authors. Actually, the process of lining up writers had been going on for some time, with Ramsdell, the chief editor, as main negotiator. By mid-March he had made up his mind on six authors, and felt that he was morally obligated to two of them, E. Merton Coulter of the University of Georgia and Charles S. Sydnor of Duke University. That same month, he and Stephenson could report agreement on the authors of volumes three to eight. They were, respectively, Philip M. Hamer, National Archives; T. P. Abernethy, University of Virginia; Sydnor; Avery O. Craven, University of Chicago; Ramsdell; and Coulter. For volumes one and two, Wesley Frank Craven of New York University and Philip Davidson of Agnes Scott College had been suggested. The editors' ideas on authors for the final two volumes were very tentative.⁵⁴

No changes were made in this slate of eight authors. For the last two volumes Ramsdell favored B. F. Kendrick of North Carolina Women's College and Rupert Vance of the University of North Carolina. When Kendrick proved unavailable, the editors chose C. Vann Woodward of the University of Virginia, thereby hitting upon a scholar who was to prove one of the outstanding contributors to the series. On December 20, 1938, contracts were let with the ten men, each calling for completion of a manuscript within two years of signature.⁵⁵

The writing of the History was delayed by various circumstances, chief among them being World War II, with its inevitable dis-

⁵³ Memo, "Progress of the Littlefield—L.S.U. Agreement since March 22," *ibid.*; minutes, Sept. 27, 1938, *ibid.* The University of Texas did not at this time have a full-fledged Press.

⁵⁴ Minutes, March 14 and 22, 1938, Minute Book.

⁵⁵ Minutes, Sept. 27, 1938; Copy of Author's contract, Dec. 20, 1938, Minute Book.

ruption of writing and publishing activities, and the death of Ramsdell in 1942. He was succeeded as senior editor and as author of volume VII by E. M. Coulter, who was called to The University of Texas to replace Ramsdell on the faculty. By October, 1946, with postwar shortages and pressures somewhat relieved, Wilkerson was authorized to get printers' bids and to inquire about a designer. The LSU Press was to handle all publication details, with the Littlefield fund to pay half the cost. Tentatively, the first volume was scheduled to appear in October or November, 1947—ten years after the project was begun.⁵⁶ Meanwhile, eight authors' contracts were again extended to 1948.

With the publication of volume VIII in 1947, things began to look up for the joint History. Volumes began to appear with some regularity, though not nearly as rapidly as everyone desired. Sydnor's volume V appeared in 1948, Wesley Craven's volume I in 1949, Coulter's volume VII in 1950, Woodward's volume IX in 1951, and Avery O. Craven's volume VI in 1953. The beginning of actual publication brought to the joint sponsors satisfaction in addition to that involved in seeing the project really under way. Coulter's volume VIII was generally received with favorable reviews, and the sales response was far beyond expectations. Within a short time, eight hundred subscriptions for the Library edition of the entire set were received, and a total of 3,000 copies of volume VIII had to be bound. My mid-1948, unexpected sales of the series had overloaded LSU Press personnel, so that Wilkerson had to call on the Fund for assistance to pay for hiring extra help.⁵⁷ Though expenses were heavier than anticipated, so were receipts. After Sydnor's volume appeared and was well received, Wilkerson was inclined to go along with a suggestion from Sydnor to consider a royalty scheme for sales above 2,600 copies per volume. As he put it to the trustees of the Littlefield Fund, "Since the series is so much more successful than we had hoped, the publishers could well afford a generous policy." On Barker's motion, however, the trustees voted

⁵⁶ Minutes of meeting with LSU Press representatives, Oct. 14, 1946, Minute Book.

⁵⁷ Wilkerson to Librarian Moffit, Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19, 1948, Minute Book; Minutes, Jan. 26, 1948, *ibid.*; Wilkerson to Moffit, Baton Rouge, April 16, 1948, LF Papers.

not to consider any proposal for royalties until all the outlay made by the Fund for the History had been recovered.⁵⁸

In 1953 Philip M. Hamer and Philip Davidson withdrew from the project, and were replaced by John B. Alden of Duke University and Clarence L. Ver Steeg of Northwestern University, respectively. Four volumes are still to appear; but the reception of the six published volumes has been generally good. Even the criticism levelled against one or two of the volumes—namely, charges of interpretation too sympathetic toward the South—would hardly have displeased the founder of the Littlefield Fund.

A brief summary of the Fund's later financial history may be of some value. Up to August, 1938, the Fund had spent almost \$102,000 on acquisitions. Yet in spite of these expenditures, the original principal of \$125,000 had grown to \$146,368.26, of which approximately \$15,000 was in the publications reserve. The investment policy of the Fund was still quite conservative. Its holdings covered a wide range of U.S., state, municipal, county, school district, and industrial bonds, with interest rates ranging from 2½% to 6½%. All of the twenty-one different issues except one had a market value above face value.⁵⁹

From 1938 to 1947, the fiscal holdings of the Fund grew rapidly. The reason for this was simple and twofold: (1) book purchasing had been restricted sharply in anticipation of publication costs which did not materialize because of the war; (2) the war also reduced purchasing to an even lower level than otherwise would have prevailed. Income for the Fund ranged from about \$4,000 to \$4,500 annually; during these years the average annual expenditure for books was about two hundred fifty dollars. By 1947, the Fund's total assets stood at \$170,326.75.⁶⁰

Since that date the Fund's total balance has tended to oscillate between \$170,000 and \$160,000. The most recent figures (August, 1956) show a balance of \$165,113.45. The slight dip has been due, first, to the incidence of heavy publication costs for the joint History

⁵⁸ Auditor's Reports, Jan. 21, 1948, and Feb. 1, 1949, Minute Book; Wilkerson to Moffit, Baton Rouge, Jan. 22, 1949, and Minutes Feb. 9, 1949, Minute Book.

⁵⁹ Summary Auditor's Report, May 1, 1914–August 31, 1938; Auditor's Report, Oct. 31, 1938, LF Papers.

⁶⁰ Auditor's Reports for these years, LF Papers; also Auditor's Report, May 20, 1947, Minute Book.

of the South. Since 1946, moreover, book purchasing has taken a sharp turn upwards. In the years 1946-1951, book purchases ranged annually from a low of \$332.18 to a high of \$1,980.53, with an average of \$1,344.88. In 1951, Dr. Barker retired from the Littlefield Board after thirty-seven years of service. In his place, at his recommendation, was appointed Barnes F. Lathrop, now professor of history at The University of Texas. Dr. Lathrop took over the main task of making acquisitions for the Fund, with results which are readily apparent. From 1951 to 1955, purchases ranged annually from \$3,167.08 to \$7,865.45, with an average of \$4,841.05.⁶¹ Very recently, the Fund made its first departure from the policy of holding bonds only as securities, investing ten thousand dollars in three high grade industrial stocks.⁶²

As to the future course of the Fund, one can only conjecture. Financially, barring some nation-wide debacle, it is secure for all time to come. Presumably the History of the South for which it was established will one day be finished with the publication of the last of the ten volumes, but, according to Dr. Lathrop, there is no foreseeable time in which it will no longer be possible or advisable to acquire more Southern history materials. Moreover, even if the income should be more than adequate to pay for collecting purposes, the surface has only been scratched on the sponsorship of publications. One might possibly argue that there are other fields of history at The University of Texas which are, in comparison to Southern history, sadly neglected in library materials. Yet this is quite another question. Even if the funds are used in perpetuity for nothing else than their original aims, the Littlefield Fund, as it has served a useful purpose in the past, will also serve a useful one in the future.

⁶¹ Auditor's Reports for all these years, Minute Book; Barker to Moffit, Austin, June 26, 1951, LF Papers; minutes, June 29, 1951, Minute Book.

⁶² Minutes, April 15, 1954, Minute Book.

*Classical Myth and Legend
in Renaissance Dictionaries*

by D. T. Starnes and E. W. Talbert

A Review

RUDOLPH WILLARD

Classical Myth and Legend in Renaissance Dictionaries, by Dewitt T. Starnes and Ernest William Talbert (University of North Carolina Press, 1956), is the third of a series of books to come from the research carried on by Dr. Starnes in the field of those treasuries of word-lore, the dictionaries of the Renaissance and of the early modern period. The first, *The English Dictionary from Cawdrey to Johnson* (also from the University of North Carolina Press, 1946) in collaboration with Dr. Gertrude E. Noyes, of Connecticut College, explored the early years of the English dictionary, from the first expositors of hard words to the full dictionaries of Bailey and of Dr. Johnson. The second, *Renaissance Dictionaries: English-Latin and Latin-English* (University of Texas Press, 1955) by Dr. Starnes alone, surveyed the larger and more important field of the bilingual dictionary, the directory to the learned and the vernacular languages of the English speaking world, largely in the sixteenth century. In these dictionaries the learning of the Middle Ages and of the early Renaissance was transmitted, through the instrumentality of printing, to the growing body of educated and literate men for whom English was the native tongue. Designed primarily to help in the art of reading and writing Latin, they served for the English language itself. The present volume, written in collaboration with Dr. Talbert (formerly on the staff of

the University of Texas and now at Duke University) deals, to quote Dr. Talbert, with what are largely "academic or literary commonplaces" inherited by the Renaissance from antiquity, either directly from the ancient world or indirectly through the writers and scriptoria of the medieval world. It is ever to be remembered that the vital part of the analysis and organization of this body of knowledge, as well as much of its enrichment, was the work of medieval scholars.

This third volume, more limited in its field in that its material is largely derivative and is confined to classical myth and legend, is in many ways the most stimulating, for it leads right into the "realms of gold," and to those artists, the men of letters, of what it was customary to term the Golden Age of English Literature, and in particular to the poets and dramatists who gave splendor and distinction to the period. This book is the greatest fun for the thoughtful, patient, and imaginative reader, in large part because of the materials with which the authors are concerned and which their studies illumine. Here the reader must make lively contribution from his own knowledge and experience and imagination, for, according as he brings to it, he receives. The basic materials are those treasuries of organized information, so indispensable to writers and to readers of allusive and traditional literature, particularly poetry, which derive from the ancient classical and the medieval tradition. These references explain and organize myth and legend, materials that have long stirred the imagination and delighted the minds of men, the place names and personal names that figure, one might say play, in the literary structures into which authors incorporate them.

The present reviewer, some three decades ago, wandered quite casually into one of the outlying fields of this domain, when he had occasion to prepare a small exhibition of early English dictionaries. Guided by Henry Bradley's classical lecture on the development of the English dictionary, he came upon, *inter alia*, Henry Cockeram's tiny work, *The English Dictionary*, 1623, the first work to bear that impressive title. By no means a great work, it is of interest for its perfectly frank recognition of its aim—to deal very practically with matters implicit in the three-fold division of the work: (1) to explain hard and elegant words, employed by authors to give dis-

tion and charm to their art; (2) to reduce simple, easy words to rarer and more elegant synonyms, for the adornment of style; (3) to furnish a roster of names and things which can be invoked or mentioned to add enrichment through specific and significant allusion. The title to this third section, in a four-fold hierarchy of type, announces its own Natural History Museum:

The Third Part, Treating of Gods and Goddesses, Men and Women, Boyes and Maids, Giants and Diuels, Birds and Beasts, Monsters and Serpents, Wells and Rivers, Hearbes, Stones, Trees, Dogges, Fishes, and the like.

Here was Apollo's plenty. These thumb-nail sketches—the volume itself is tiny, about the format of a two-cent post card—suggested one of the means whereby the age and writers could come at ready, compact, and quotable information. With echoes of the *Faerie Queen*, Book I, Canto I, in my mind, the passage on the Crocodile afforded the pleasures of recognition:

Crocodile, a Beast hatched of an Egg, yet some of them grow to a great bigness, as 10. 20. or 30. foot in length: it hath cruell teeth and scaly backe, with very sharp clawes on his feet; if it see a man afraid of him, it will eagerly pursue him but on the contrary, if hee be assaulted, he will shun him. Hauing eaten the body of a man, it will weep over the head also: thence the prouerbe, he shed Crocodile teares: viz. feigned teares.

The sequel to this experience was, of course, to come upon the beautiful illustrated Bestiary, of the thirteenth century, in the Morgan Library, with its picture of a crocodile, as the medieval artist, following tradition, imagined him: standing high and ominous, on four legs, of such height that he could look his intended victim in the eye. At this level, one would guess, he could with more assurance appeal to that gentle heart, in which, according to earlier, and medieval, poets, pity courses forthwith at the sight of another's woe. (But not in the Crocodile!)

One has always been hugely impressed by the signs of erudition in men of letters of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when in extremely casual and debonair manner they laid out cryptic references in diminutive footnotes, compact, terse, unverbose, which teased the imagination, and made one wonder "how the devil they

got there." How could they read and remember, so much, one asks, and with special curiosity if he has had to do with printed books of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, whether black-letter or otherwise, with the particular technical features of early printing—how could they so easily devise those compact, spun-dry references? One knows now that they were following the dictionary that lay before them (and directed them to the passages in the first place): Torrentinus, Calepine, Stephanus (Robert), Elyot, Cooper, Stephanus (Charles). They, as dictionary makers, having to deal with printers, and to conserve space, were forced of necessity to such reduction to the absolute minimum consonant with intelligibility. Such reference reflects both the age of printing and the currency of what we might call standard editions.

There is always wonder how the poet was able to assemble such a range of names, some so distant and recondite, how he could marshal them with such ease and sureness. The answer is simple: the organizing and disciplinary faculty of the dictionary maker, or, better, dictionary makers, has done it for him and has put it within ready reach. It is precollected, pre-digested, and pre-arranged, with notes. The writer has but to reach, read, select, and use, and take the reference along with him. A Milton, of course, would have done most of his own reading, and thinking, and remembering, and organizing; but he could consult the reference works, the Renaissance Dictionaries, for precision of detail, additional suggestions, and incidentally pick up hints as to arrangement and phraseology.

The insight into the way the poets worked with such organized collections of literary materials as Dr. Starnes' and Dr. Talbert's book affords, makes the perusal of this work a stimulating experience. To turn to the pages on Shakespeare: one comes upon Absyrtus, under the heading *Medea*, upon Agamemnon, upon Althaea under *Hecuba*, and all the magic that Shakespeare spun out of the information afforded under *Hercules*, all these in Cooper; Phaeton and Stephanus; Prometheus and light and fire and life, Cooper and Erasmus—such materials enrich our experience with the poet's lines. Of course, Ben Jonson, with his Masques in particular, and the extraordinarily copious draughts of classical lore and classical names that characterize them—all this makes a long and rich chapter. To one who has enjoyed the Masques, and wondered how

Jonson could command the wealth of detail that marks them, these source books, the Renaissance dictionaries, with their copious citations and assemblage of materials in various languages, suggest how he managed much of it. Along with the sources there is always the mind of the poet, combining, arranging, building, shaping, harmonizing, and turning it all into music. And there is Milton, and many a magic entry; Chalybean tempered steel, the starr'd Ethiop Queen, Calisto, the one-eyed Arimasian, Erebus, the Graces, the Hours, and Cartari's *Imagines Deorum*, Urania, Nimrod, and Nis-roch (and Stephanus), and Proserpina, Enna (and Stephanus). So it goes. And there is Spenser, an excursion all in itself.

This work, while narrative in organization and method, is really a source book, and itself a dictionary and an *omnium gatherum*, within limits (self-imposed), of references and reference works. For this a very full index is called for, and such an index Miss Lucetta Teagarden has assembled. It is very analytical, has a remarkably helpful and effective system of intercommunication. Very seldom does it fail you. There is one bit of whimsy, perhaps to be charged to the publisher. Under both *Starnes* and *Talbert* references direct the inquirer to "chapters of present study by" as being on p. ii. One looks there in vain. Perhaps p. vi is meant. It would have helped, I think, if the publisher had provided some sort of guide at the head of many of the columns. On pages 506 and 507 one comes upon a long sequence of names in alphabetical order, without any clue as to the heading under which they are listed. Turning back to p. 505, we find "....., proper name in." Thus, heartened, as though one heard the sound of a choir of hounds in the distance, one looks back further, and sure enough, on p. 504, comes upon "Stephanus, Charles," etc. Within each category the entries are highly informative, and comparative. To take a random entry, p. 507, under Stephanus (Charles): "Hippolytus, compared with Heywood, 215-16; compared with Milton, 233; compared with Ross, 408; compared with Spenser, 68-70; see Aesculapius." One cannot ask for more.

The book is generously and effectively illustrated by facsimile reproductions from basic texts, not easy to come by except in large and well-stocked research libraries, and then not of ready access, certainly not for casual perusal. Of the nine illustrations listed on

p. ix, seven come from six books in the Library of The University of Texas, and two from Dr. Starnes' own collection. This leads to an old and favorite meditation: the contribution an active and devoted scholar makes to the library of the University of which he is a member. If he himself is alert, and if he takes time to comb the book catalogues and to send in order slips, he increases the treasury of the University Library. Dr. Starnes' interests have led to notable increases in the effective resources for Renaissance scholarship at The University of Texas.

The Letters of George Meredith

C. L. CLINE

FOR SOME SIXTY or seventy years the occupant of The Lodge at Eltham (Kent), a fine old Georgian mansion, was a charming lady named Mrs. Benjamin Wood. In 1868 she was a widow in her seventies, she had never left Eltham since her husband's death, she had been on a train only once in her life, and she was to continue to wear the fashions of her early Victorian youth until the day of her death in 1888. Immured at Eltham, she lived the life of a recluse in the intellectual world of the Greek poets, Addison, Swift, Molière, and Racine. She was an excellent Latin and French scholar, and up to the last week of her life she made translations of Greek verse. Except for relatives she seldom saw anyone except her oculist, a minister who came to read to her, not to offer spiritual advice—and George Meredith.

Toward the end of 1868, out of harrowing financial necessity, Meredith agreed to go once a week for two hours to read to Mrs. Wood. In return he received an honorarium of £300 per year. The arrangement was made by Lady Wood and Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Wood's sister and niece respectively, both minor writers who had profited from Meredith's literary advice, and it lasted for twenty years.

According to Katherine O'Shea, the mistress of Parnell and niece of Mrs. Wood who lived across the park from Mrs. Wood in a cottage provided by her, Meredith would invariably begin by saying, "Now, my dear lady, I will read you something of my own."

"Indeed, my dear Mr. Meredith, I cannot comprehend your works."

"I will explain my meaning, dear Mrs. Wood."

"You are prodigiously kind, dear Mr. Meredith, but I should prefer Molière today."

And so began what turned out to be not two hours, but more often three or four, for she delighted in his visits, and he, in turn, found her a very clever old lady indeed, with whom he could discuss her favorite writers on equal terms.

About 1943 some twenty-five letters written by Meredith to Mrs. Wood, Lady Wood, and Mrs. Steele came onto the market, and because I liked Meredith's novels and because the price was modest, I induced the Librarian to buy them for The University of Texas. I am afraid I had nothing more definite in mind at the time. Subsequently, however, I spent a part of a summer at the Yale University Library, which contains the Altschul Collection of George Meredith, the greatest single collection extant. Included are some three hundred or more of Meredith's letters, and I could not resist spending long hours reading them.

Gradually, in the months that followed, some conclusions began to take shape in my mind: 1) that Meredith at his best is a superb letter writer; 2) that hundreds of his letters have never been published at all; 3) that a substantial number have only been published in limited or private editions, such as those of T. J. Wise and M. Buxton Forman; and 4) that the standard edition of Meredith's letters, published in 1912 by his son, William Maxse Meredith, is altogether unsatisfactory. For it can hardly be said to have been edited at all, and it is full of errors, careless transcriptions, and whimsies, such as deleting parts of letters without warning, printing a part of a letter as though it were the whole, and occasional altering of the text. Several years later, having learned by inquiry that Yale would make its letters available to me, I decided to undertake a collected edition of Meredith's letters that would be as nearly complete and free of my predecessor's errors as possible.

As I was engaged upon another project at the time, I did not begin work on the edition at once. Meanwhile I kept an eye open for Meredith letters that were offered for sale and either bought them for TxU or for my own modest Meredith collection. Once I was free to turn my attention to the project, it became clear that I had underestimated its scope. A letter addressed to all the public libraries turned up more of Meredith's letters than I had foreseen. The Garrick Club, as I knew, had been willed the two hundred or so letters addressed to William Hardman, one of Meredith's two

closest friends. It was possible, over a period of time, to obtain photostatic or microfilm copies of all these. But there remained many whose locations were known to me but of which I could not obtain, for one reason or another, photographic reproductions. And it seemed obvious that it would be possible to find others in England if I were on the ground. In the summer of 1955 the American Philosophical Society awarded me a fellowship that enabled me to spend the summer in England, where I had access to some hundreds of letters written by Meredith to Admiral Maxse, the second of his two closest friends, to Mrs. (later Lady) Walter Palmer, to Lady Ulrica Drummond (Baring), and to others. And a tour of the bookshops revealed more than fifty letters, which were purchased for TxU.

Last summer a Meredith scholar from the University of Glasgow was in the country to study the Meredith manuscripts and letters at Harvard, Yale, and the Morgan Library. At the Morgan Library she learned with considerable astonishment that The University of Texas held 97 of Meredith's letters—a holding important enough to bring her to Austin. But when she arrived, she discovered that the number 97 was incorrect; it was actually 154.

Since that time possibly another dozen letters have been added, the most interesting of which relate to the subject of Meredith's second marriage, to Marie Vulliamy, in 1864. As the provenance of the letters goes back to the Vulliamy family, and as Mr. Vulliamy kept copies of his own letters to Meredith, both sides of the correspondence are available. And in it one can see that the long shadow of Meredith's first marriage (to Mary Ellen Peacock Nicolls, who had eloped with the artist Henry Wallis in 1858 and had died subsequently in 1861) had stretched over the intervening years and threatened to prevent the parental consent necessary to the second marriage.

The TxU Meredith collection contains no manuscripts of novels or poems, nor is it likely ever to acquire any of major importance. Its letters do not yet match those of Yale in number and importance, but someday may do so. Meanwhile it is the second richest collection of letters in this country, and is excelled only by the Garrick Club collection abroad.

The William Butler Yeats Collection at Texas

HAZARD ADAMS

SINCE EARLY IN 1950, the Rare Books division of the University of Texas Library, under the direction of Miss Fannie Ratchford, has been accumulating an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, letters, and other documents pertaining to the life and work of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats. The Library's initial acquisition was the collection of Mr. William Roth, who began to acquire manuscripts and editions of Yeats as an undergraduate at Yale University during the thirties. Mr. Roth is widely known among Yeats scholars and devotees as the author of *A Catalogue of English and American First Editions of W. B. Yeats*, published in 1939 on the occasion of an exhibit of Yeats books at the Yale Library. Mr. Roth's private collection was more than a beginning for a fine library collection of Yeats. In itself it was as extensive a private collection as existed outside of Ireland, and in books alone it surpassed the Yeats holdings of almost all libraries in the United States.

In order to determine the extent of the Roth collection, one may compare its holdings to the listings in the recent *Bibliography of the Writings of W. B. Yeats* by the late Allan Wade. Wade lists 207 editions of books by Yeats up to 1944. This listing includes all English, American, and Dublin editions of Yeats's prose works, poetry, plays (including the many theatre editions), and printings of poems by private subscription. Of these, the Roth collection has 122, several in duplicate copies. If we except some of the absent American and Dublin editions of the plays and prose (several of which were printed from the same plates as the English editions), the Roth collection is very nearly complete. Among the most rare items to be found in it is Yeats's first work published in separate form, the dramatic poem *Mosada*. This edition, its light brown

paper covers decorated by a border of medallions and shamrocks, was printed, according to Yeats's sister Elizabeth, in 1886 from the original text in *The Dublin University Review*. The printing consisted of only one hundred copies. In his bibliography, Wade describes it as "exceedingly rare," so rare in fact that Yeats himself seems not to have kept a copy; and Wade states that he was able to locate only one copy anywhere in Ireland. Since 1886 there have been only two reprintings of *Mosada*, the first in the 1889 edition of *The Wanderings of Oisín* and the second in 1943 by the Cuala Press, established by Yeats and his sisters as the Dun Emer Press in 1903 and still active under the direction of Mrs. Yeats. The Cuala Press edition is also extremely rare, only fifty copies having been printed, many of these still in the possession of Mrs. Yeats. Both the 1889 edition of *The Wanderings of Oisín*, Yeats's first volume of poems, and the 1943 Cuala edition of *Mosada* are represented in the Roth collection.

Other Roth items of particular interest among the books by Yeats are two extremely rare pamphlets which Yeats wrote in 1901 under the pseudonym "D. E. D. I." (*Daemon Est Deus Inversus*) for the Order of the Golden Dawn. These are entitled *Is the Order of R. R. & A. C. to Remain A Magical Order* and *A Postscript to the previous essay*. Only a few of these pamphlets have survived to reach collections. Evidently some, but not many, members of the Order ignored the stern warning on the cover, which said, "This essay must not be given to any but Adepts of the Order of R. R. & A. C." Both pamphlets provide insight into Yeats's occult activities at the turn of the century. The Roth collection also provides the Library with most of the many English and American editions of Yeats's poems—virtually all of the editions in which important textual changes occur—and with some rare private printings. The collection contains several presentation copies, one of particular interest—a first edition of the stories *John Sherman* and *Dhoya*, published in 1891 under the pseudonym "Ganconagh." The value of this copy is greatly enhanced by Yeats's having inscribed it to Maud Gonne with these verses:

We poets labour all our days
To make a little beauty be,

But vanquished by a woman's gaze
And the unlabouring stars are we:
So I—most lovely child of Eire—
Rising from labour, bow the knee
With equal reverence to the fire
Of the unlabouring stars and thee.

—W. B. Yeats
September 1st, 1891

The usually blank page opposite the inscription is filled by a water color by A. E., which Yeats evidently asked him to draw before he presented the copy to Maud. In A. E.'s typical, rather Pre-Raphaelite style, it depicts characters from *Dhoya*. Among other presentation copies is a first edition of the aforementioned *Wanderings of Oisín*, inscribed to Olivia Shakespear.

Perhaps the most unusual part of the Roth collection is a large number of periodicals containing various contributions by Yeats—poems, reviews, essays, and open letters. Especially in the early years of his career, from about 1885 to 1915, Yeats contributed early versions of his poems and many reviews to British literary magazines. Represented in the Roth collection are several copies of such magazines as *The Bookman*, *The Speaker*, *The Savoy*, *The New Review* and *The Saturday Review*; also copies of more obscure magazines to which Yeats contributed—*The Green Sheaf*, *The Dome*, and others. Checked against Allan Wade's bibliography of Yeats's contributions to periodicals, the magazine collection provides a good proportion of the early versions of many poems along with prose writings which have never been republished.

The Library has also been fortunate, through the cooperation of Mr. Joseph Hone, Yeats's first biographer, to obtain several items which he collected during the preparation of his *W. B. Yeats 1865–1939*, published in 1942. Of particular interest in this collection is a large scrapbook of newspaper and magazine clippings, ranging from essays about Yeats and reviews of his work to clippings of poems by Yeats himself from the daily press and from magazines. These clippings are now being examined by Miss Hildegard Schmalenbeck, who has discovered among them several printings of poems and letters by Yeats which are not mentioned in Wade's

bibliography. It is expected that she will publish these findings in the near future. The contents of the scrapbook give an indication of contemporary attitudes toward Yeats's work, especially in the Irish press. In one unidentified periodical of 1886, a reviewer writes glowingly of *Mosada*: "We are glad to welcome a new singer in Erin, one who will take high place among the world's future singers if the promise of this early work is fulfilled, or if, indeed the performance of the future be equal to that of today." High praise, indeed, for *Mosada*! If Yeats had not surpassed that work, it is unlikely that he would be remembered as a poet by more than a handful of people today. Wade quotes from a copy of this edition, in which Yeats inscribed a brief note: "I read this through for the first time since it was first published. I wrote it when I was twenty-one & think rather sadly that when young men of that age send in like work I am not able to foresee his future or his talent." (Wade, *Bibliography*, 18.) It would be of some consolation to young poets these days to know also that Yeats's first book was "subsidized" by subscribers with the help of Edward Dowden and John Butler Yeats (Hone, *W. B. Yeats 1865-1939*, 52). The scrapbook, which provides marvelous reading throughout for any Yeats devotee, has among its pleasant surprises a periodical printing of the poem now entitled "The Madness of King Goll," with an amusing illustration by John Butler Yeats depicting a Pre-Raphaelite King Goll playing a harp. The face, however, is clearly that of the young Yeats. It is bearded, but the expression is nevertheless languid and Rossetti-like.

Also among the Hone papers are several letters written by acquaintances of Yeats from whom Hone solicited information for his biography. These include letters from Thomas Bodkin, Margaret Llewelyn Davies, Ethel Mannin, and Maud Gonne MacBride. There are also several letters making minor corrections to statements made by Hone in his book—from Pamela Hinkson, Madame MacBride again, and others.

The Roth collection, too, has interesting material to supplement the published works: a collection of obituary clippings about Yeats from English, Irish, and American newspapers; seventy letters from Yeats to W. T. Horton (the significant ones appear in Wade's *Letters*), to whose *Book of Images* Yeats contributed an introduc-

tion; the manuscript of *Per Amica Silentia Lunae*, perhaps Yeats's most important prose previous to *A Vision*; some manuscripts of poems; and some typescripts which Yeats sent from time to time to his American friend John Quinn.

Since 1950, the Library has sought to supplement the Roth collection with additional material. This has included thirty-four additions to the total number of different editions of books by Yeats and a good many duplicates. The present holding compared to the Wade bibliography up to 1944 is now 141 books out of 207. Among these additional acquisitions are *On the Boiler*, the controversial political pamphlet published by the Cuala Press in September 1939, the privately printed edition of *The Trembling of the Veil* (1922), and private printings of some single poems. Of the 43 editions of books listed by Wade as edited by Yeats, the library now has 26, including a full run of *Beltaine* and *Sambain*, organs of the Irish Literary Theatre, the three-volume Ellis-Yeats edition of Blake, and several books published by the Cuala Press. There are also 17 editions of books to which Yeats contributed (Wade lists 34).

The weaknesses of the collection from the standpoint of the scholar lie in the drama. In compiling a list of editions of Yeats not owned by the Library but of particular value, this writer discovered that 15 of 30 books listed were editions of plays or books having to do with the drama. In the list of less important editions now missing, drama was again in the preponderance. As a collection for the scholar interested in Yeats's poems, his prose, or his literary career, the holdings are now fairly complete; and there is a continued effort to improve the collection and to supplement it with other Irish and modern materials. These include a collection of World War I poetry, and a recently ordered collection of letters and other items owned by Pamela Hinkson. The aim of the Library is a series of related collections in the area of modern literature. The Yeats holdings have provided a fine beginning.

DESIDERATA

Listed according to number in Wade's *Bibliography*

- 18 *Poems*, London: Unwin, 1901 (Third English Edition)
- 19 *Poems*, London: Unwin, 1904 (Fourth English Edition)

- 29 *The Wind Among the Reeds*, London: Elkin Mathews, 1900
(Third English Edition)
- 35 *The Celtic Twilight*, London: Bullen, 1902 (Revised and En-
larged Edition)
- 44 *Where There Is Nothing*, London: Bullen, 1903 (First English
Edition)
- 52 *The Hour-Glass*, New York: Macmillan, 1904 (American Edi-
tion)
- 62 *Cathleen ni Houliban*, London: Bullen, 1906 (First Theatre Edi-
tion)
- 65 *The Poetical Works I*, New York and London: Macmillan, 1906
- 68 *On Baile's Strand*, London: Bullen, 1907 (Theatre Edition)
- 70 *Alterations to "Deirdre"*, London: Bullen, [1908]
- 71 *The Poetical Works II*, New York and London: Macmillan, 1907
- 73 *The Unicorn from the Stars*, New York: Macmillan, 1908
- 85 *The Green Helmet*, New York: Paget, 1911
- 90 *The King's Threshold*, Stratford: Shakespeare Head, 1911
(Theatre Edition)
- 93 *The Countess Cathleen*, London: Unwin, 1912 (Revised Edition)
- 99 *Poems*, London: Unwin, 1912 (Sixth English Edition, Revised)
- 100 *Poems*, London: Unwin, 1913 (Seventh English Edition)
- 138 *The Player Queen*, London: Macmillan, 1922
- 144 *The Irish Dramatic Movement*, Stockholm: Norstedt, 1924
- 171 *The Collected Poems*, New York: Macmillan, 1933
- 172 *The Collected Poems*, London: Macmillan, 1933
- 182 *A Full Moon in March*, London: Macmillan, 1935
- 183 *Dramatis Personae*, Dublin: Cuala, 1935
- 184 *Poems*, Dublin: Cuala, 1935
- 188 *Modern Poetry*, London: British Broadcasting Co., 1936
- 193 *A Speech and Two Poems*, Dublin: Three Candles, 1937
- 197 *New Poems*, Dublin: Cuala, 1938
- 200 *Last Poems and Two Plays*, Dublin: Cuala, 1939

New Acquisitions

THIS SECTION reviews from time to time the important gifts and purchases received in the Library for the period between issues of the CHRONICLE. It is a selective list, and cannot always include every item which may be worthy of mention; but it is intended that it shall always be representative of significant kinds of acquisitions.

RARE BOOK COLLECTIONS

SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES

At present, we are not making special effort to extend our already notable holdings in sixteenth and seventeenth century imprints. There is, however, always a trickling of acquisitions. RBC's 1615 and 1631 editions of John Stow's *Annales, or a General Chronicle of England* have moved down the shelf to give place to a 1605 edition, the gift of Dr. E. R. Adair. From Dr. Adair came also *His Maiesties Poeticall Exercises at Vacant Houres* by James I (Reproduction, Edinburgh, 1818). To an interesting series of Sebastian Brant's *Stultifera Navis (Ship of Fools)*: 1497, 1507, 1509, 1570, we have added Brant's *Der richterlich Clagspiegel* (Strassburg, 1521). A strong collection of herbals continues to grow, our most recent acquisitions being *Incipit tractatus de virtutibus herbarum* (Venice, 1502?); Macer Floridus's *Herbarum varias qui ves cognoscere vires* (1522); and Pietro de Crescenzi's *Opera di agricoltura* (Venice, 1534). Swelling the list of related books dealing with the Reformation comes Martin Luther's *Die Syben Buss-Psalmen* (Strassburg, 1519), while the addition of *Opera nuper diligentissime recognita* (Venice, 1536) brings RBC's sixteenth-century editions of Boethius up to a total of three.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Recent acquisitions of books bearing an eighteenth-century date total sixty-four. Included are no outstanding works: so rich is RBC

in this period that its missing titles, except in rare instances, do not come up for sale. Acquisitions consist of a few titles by major authors and works by minor figures. The following titles are representative of the whole.

AMERICANA: *General Assembly: Address to the President of the United States and George Washington's Reply* (Presbyterian Church) (1789); The Rev. Mr. Cooper's *The History of North America* and *The History of South America*, both published in 1789.

CONTROVERSIAL LITERATURE: Anthony Collins's *Discourse on the Grounds and Reasons of the Christian Religion* (1724); Michael Geddes's *Several Tracts against Popery* (1715) and *Miscellaneous Tracts* (1730).

HISTORY: William Nicholson's *The Irish Historical Library* (Dublin, 1724); Sir David Dalrymple's *Account of the Preservation of King Charles II* (1766).

MISCELLANEOUS: James Burgh's *The Dignity of Human Nature* (1794); *A Companion for the Fire-Side* (1773); Edward Cobden's *Poems on Several Occasions* (1748); Richard Cumberland's *Calypso* (1779); Anthony Ashley Cooper's *Letters Written by a Noble Lord to a Young Man at the University* (1716); Daniel Defoe's *History of the Union between England and Scotland* (1786); and John Leland's *De Rebus Britannicis Collectanea* (1774).

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Acquisitions in the nineteenth century are interesting by reason of important groups they supplement or footnote.

The Byron-Shelley material includes John Byron's *A Voyage Around the World* (1767); Maria Gisborne and Edward E. Williams: *Shelley's Friends, Their Journals and Letters* (1951), edited by Frederick L. Jones; Sylva Norman's *Flight of the Skylark, The Development of Shelley's Reputation* (1955); and William Godwin's *Lives of Edward and John Philips* (1815).

From the remainder, one picks out instantly the works of Thomas Chandler Haliburton, a Canadian humorist better known as Sam Slick, to be used in connection with Dr. Joseph Jones's study of the

philosophy of humor; Thomas Hardy's *A Laodicean* (1881) and *Satires of Circumstance* (1914); and a group of autograph letters by George Meredith.

WAR LITERATURE

Since Dr. Joseph Cohen completed his dissertation on Wilfred Owen a few years ago, RBC has been assiduously collecting war literature. Recently added to the shelves are approximately fifty volumes dealing with World War I and World War II. All of these are first editions, supplementing the same titles already in the general stacks. This newer group joins hands with the well known Littlefield collection of Civil War Literature:

Cyril Falls's *War Books: A Critical Guide* (1930); F. W. T. Lange's *Books on the Great War* (1915-16); Richard Aldington's *Death of a Hero* (1929); James Matthew Barrie's *Echoes of the War* (1918); Ambrose Bierce's *Battle Sketches* (1930); Thomas Burke's *Out and About: A Note-Book of London in War Time* (1919); Robert Graves's *But It Still Goes On* (1930); William Noel Hodgson's *Verse and Prose in Peace and War* (1916); Alice Duer Miller's *The White Cliffs* (1941); Alexander Alan Milne's *Behind the Lines* (1940); Wilfred Owen's *Poems* (1952), edited by Edmund Blunden; Siegfried Sassoon's *Counter-Attack and Other Poems* (1918) and *Memories of an Infantry Officer* (1930); and Katherine Tynan's *Herb o' Grace: Poems in War-Time* (1918).

MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE

RBC has continued its policy of building upon the very strong foundation of modern English and American authors laid in the DeGolyer Collections, donated by the late Mr. E. DeGolyer of Dallas, about ten years ago.

Especially significant among a hundred and thirty-two acquisitions are eight titles by George Russell, eighteen by D. H. Lawrence, and fifty-eight by John Galsworthy. Other acquisitions include Max Beerbohm's *Leaves from the Garland* (1926); Arnold Bennett's *City of Pleasure* (1907); Laurence Binyon's *Art and Modern Life* (1929); Edmund Blunden's *English Poems* (1925); Rupert

Brooke's *Poems* (1911); Alfred E. Housman's *Collected Poems* (1929); Walter De la Mare's *Poems: 1919-1934* (1935); John Masefield's *The Everlasting Mercy* (1911) and *Gallipoli* (1916); Alfred Noyes's *The Wine Press* (1913); Siegfried Sassoon's *Satirical Poems* (1926) and *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* (1928); and Stephen Spender's *Ruins and Visions* (1942) and *The Edge of Being* (1949). To the Kipling Collection, now nearing the definitive state, a few minor titles have been added.

Even more notable are the Nelson Collection and the Hone-Yeats Collection No. 2—a substantial body of manuscript, which has been added to the Roth Collection of William Butler Yeats given to RBC by Friends of the Library a decade ago and described earlier in this issue of the CHRONICLE.

AMERICANA

Up to a few years ago, RBC's Americana was limited almost exclusively to the New England, New York, and Philadelphia groups of writers. Of recent years, acquisitions in American literature, extended to include writers of other sections of the country and later generations, have multiplied rapidly. Recent arrivals include Sherwood Anderson's *Notebook* (1926); James Branch Cabell's *Eagle's Shadow* (1904) and *Cards of Vanity* (1909); Samuel L. Clemens's *The Quaker City Holy Land Excursion* (1927) and *On Simplified Spelling: A Speech* (1906); James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pathfinder* (1840) and *Lionel Lincoln* (1824); Stephen Crane's *George's Mother* (1896); Theodore Dreiser's *The Financier* (1912); Jonathan Edwards's *Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity* (1804); Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Weal-Reaf* (1860); William Dean Howell's *Their Silver Wedding Journey* (1899); Booth Tarkington's *Penrod* (1914); and John Greenleaf Whittier's *National Lyrics* (1865).

ROXBURGHE CLUB

One of RBC's treasure sections houses upward of one hundred and fifty of the Roxburghe Club publications. The latest arrivals are Sir Sidney Cockerell's *Two East Anglian Psalters at the Bodleian*

Library (1926); *James II, King of Great Britain* (1925); and John Locke's *Directions concerning Education* (1933).

CATALOGUES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Since RBC is rich in great standard bibliographies, sales catalogues, and catalogues of exhibitions and libraries, we are now turning attention to smaller things. Among the forty-three additions in this area are many duplicates of books in the general stacks, reference copies of which are needed in the Rare Book Rooms. Representative titles include *Catalogue of the Exhibition of the Works of Walt Whitman from the Charles E. Feinberg Collection* (1955); E. D. McDonald's *A Bibliography of the Writings of D. H. Lawrence* (1925); American Academy of Arts and Letters: *A Festival of Poetry, from 1912 to the Present* (1955); Cambridge University Library: *Catalogue of the Syriac Manuscript* (1901); The University of Illinois Library: *An Exhibition of Some Latin Grammars Used or Printed in England 1471-1698* (1955); and H. P. Kraus's *Choice Manuscripts and Books, Bindings, and Autographs* (1956).

PERIODICALS

Thanks to the rich gathering of seventeenth and eighteenth century periodicals acquired in the George A. Aitken library, and by subsequent buying, RBC ranks high in this field, so high that it has small opportunity to expand its holdings. Its heaviest buying of periodicals is in the 19th century. Recent purchases include: *The Independent Whig* (Nos. 1-111, 1720), *Weekly Amusement* (1766), and *The Post-Angel* (1701), *Yankee and Boston Literary Gazette* (1828), *Century Guild Hobby Horse* (Vols. I and II), *Coterie* (Nos. 1-7, 1919-1921), *The New Coterie* (Nos. 1-6, 1925-1927), and *Blue Review* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2, 1913).

FANNIE E. RATCHFORD
Curator of Rare Books

LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION

I

In recent months the Latin American Collection has been the recipient of several significant gifts from Jack Danciger of Fort

Worth, a long time good-will ambassador between the United States and the countries to the south. Among these gifts are two letters of Bernardo O'Higgins, liberator of Chile and Perú—an original letter in O'Higgins' own hand, dated March 28, 1840 and a printed letter, signed by O'Higgins on June 13, 1820. Their value is enhanced by the fact that today few autograph letters of O'Higgins exist. Mr. Danciger said:

"As there are few 'original letters' signed personally by Bernardo O'Higgins, I desire to donate these two letters to the University of Texas for preservation and future reference. It would be an act of vanity to keep such letters in private hands. At our splendid State University with its world-renowned collection of Latin American materials they will be available for use of scholars. I think that all Texans who have materials of this nature should take pride in donating them to some institution where they will be preserved for posterity. All too often old documents are destroyed by fire or insects when kept in private homes."

Among his other gifts to the collection is a rare Baltimore imprint of 1866, written by Eugene Gaussoin, mining engineer and metallurgist, about a West Indies isle, *Memoir on the Island of Navassa*. Another is Jorge A. Lira's *Farmacopea tradicional indígena y prácticas rituales* (Lima, 1946), which was purchased in Lima in that same year. When Mr. Danciger tried in 1956 to purchase another copy, he could not do so even when advertising and offering to pay as high as one hundred dollars for it in Lima. His failure to obtain a second copy at such a price illustrates the fact that all Latin American imprints are soon out of print and are not purchasable at any price if not obtained when they first appear, usually in very limited editions of a thousand copies or less.

II

Another valuable acquisition is the Juan de Solórzano Pereira, *Disputationem de Indiarum Iure* . . . 2v., Madrid, 1629-1639. Solórzano, a profoundly learned Spanish jurist, was named in 1609 one of the judges of the Audiencia of Lima, where he lived for the next eighteen years. Shortly after his return to Spain, in 1629, he

was named legal adviser to the Council of the Indies and later a member of it.

His appointment to the Audiencia of Lima was made primarily to prepare him for this future position on the Council of the Indies. Fresh from twelve years of study and teaching of theoretical law at the University of Salamanca, he was sent to the New World to study government and justice as applied in this completely new environment. Among his duties as judge of the audiencia, he had, for three years, supervision over the government of the famous mercury mines of Huancavelica. From there in 1618 he wrote King Philip III that in his spare time he had written some books in Latin in which he had brought together and dealt with points worthy of consideration relative to Spanish government and justice in the West Indies. He stated also that he was making a compilation of all laws, decrees, etc., then in use in the Indies, using that of the laws of Castile compiled by Diego de Encinas as a model. In order that he could finish this task he asked that he be allowed to continue at the salary that he had been receiving in his position as judge but without the duties of the position. He was instructed to continue work on the Latin work but not the compilation of laws which was already under consideration in Spain. He was not relieved of his duties as judge, however; and in 1622, he wrote again to the king complaining of the difficulty of completing the Latin work because of the multitudinous other demands on his time. He stated, furthermore, that he had learned that a lawyer in the Spanish court had taken possession of the plan of his Latin work and was using it to write on the identical theme. He urged the court not to permit another to write on the same subject.

He sent a draft of the first volume of *De Indiarum Ivre* to the king on April 1, 1626. Permission to publish it was finally granted on March 9, 1628; and on September 13, 1629, the Council of the Indies ordered that fifty copies be delivered to it and allocated two thousand ducats to cover the publication cost of the first volume.

At the time that Solórzano began this volume, Spanish dominion and justice in the New World had been under heated debate for some fifty years or more by such men as the fiery moralist, Bartolomé de Las Casas, and the cold legalistic humanist, Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda, and was being threatened by other European powers. The first

volume, therefore, was written to demonstrate the necessity and justice of the Spanish conquest and the title of the Spanish kings to the realm, with a discussion of the opinions of those opposed to Spanish domination. Solórzano illustrated his arguments with many observations made during his long experience in Perú.

The second volume deals with the person and service of the Indians, the church and the royal patronage, the secular government, and the wealth of the Indies. Given the controversial nature of the first two subjects of this volume, it is not surprising that both before and after its publication it drew condemnation. In September, 1637, King Philip IV, having heard that Solórzano was said to have written that the Indian parents killed their offspring by batting their heads against the walls in order to prevent their undergoing the suffering that the parents had at the hands of the Spaniards, ordered the Council of the Indies to look into the matter. Solórzano was instructed to make many changes in the second volume before it was finally approved for printing. After its appearance it was placed on the Index by the papal authorities because of what Solórzano had written about the church and royal patronage. When Philip IV was informed of this, he issued a royal decree nullifying the edict of the church and ordering all copies of it distributed in Spain and its possessions gathered up and returned to him. This royal decree praised the great work of Solórzano—especially what he had written about the church and the royal patronage.

The fact that this work was in Latin was considered unfortunate even in Solórzano's day. Its great value was so recognized that he was encouraged to put it into Spanish. He, therefore, wrote another great work, the *Política Indiana*. It was not just a translation of the *Disputationem de Indiarum Iure*. By the time that he began work on the *Política Indiana*, needs and conditions had changed as well as had Solórzano. He said in dedicating the work to Philip IV that he had decided not to be bound so much to the letter of the *Disputationem de Indiarum Iure* as to the purpose of the new work, improving and enlarging on many parts of the earlier work, reducing other parts and even adding new parts. Thus it is that scholars who wish to know the New World as seen by Solórzano between 1609 and 1628 and as known by him through his active participation as a member of the Council of the Indies between 1629 and 1646 must

refer not only to the *Política Indiana* but also to the *Disputationem de Indiarum Iure*. The *Política Indiana* first appeared in Madrid in two volumes in 1648. The collection does not have this first edition, but it does have the Amberes, 1703, as well as 2v., Madrid, 1736-39; 2v., Madrid, 1776; and 5v., Madrid, 1930.

The *Disputationem de Indiarum Iure* was re-issued in 1641, 1653, 1672 and 1777, but the collection has none of these later editions. It does have, however, the second edition of Solórzano's third great work, *Emblemata regio política in centuriam vnam . . .* Madrid, 1653, and his *Obras varias. Recopilación de diversos tratados, memoriales, y papeles . . .* Madrid, [1676], published posthumously.

Here also is the *Libro Primero de la recopilación de las cédulas, cartas, provisiones y ordenanzas reales* (Colección de Textos y Documentos para la Historia del Derecho Argentino, nos. 5-6), 2v., Buenos Aires, 1945. This is the work that Solórzano, in his letter of 1618 to the king, said he was compiling after the model of Diego de Encinas. Although he was instructed not to continue his work and did not do so, Richardo Levene, author of many works on the history of Argentine law, found what Solórzano had done of such great interest that he published it in 1945. This work is especially valuable because, after each law, Solórzano gives in detail the source of each law and the reason it was issued.

Mention should be made here also of Diego de Encinas' *Cedulario indiano*, 4v., Madrid, 1596, of which the collection has two complete sets. When this work was republished (4v., Madrid, 1945-46) the editor stated that the location of only two copies of this valuable and monumental work was known—one in the rare books section of the National Library of Madrid and the other, an incomplete set, in the National Library of Santiago, Chile. He stated, furthermore, that even at the beginning of the seventeenth century (during Solórzano's time) this was a rare set; so much so that the various high courts (audiencias) of the New World lamented not having access to it.

NETTIE LEE BENSON

Librarian, Latin American Collection

TEXAS COLLECTION

I

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Alice Doran Haynes, 450 North Rossmore Avenue, Los Angeles, California, the University Library has received a collection of books and documents that were the property of her father-in-law, John L. Haynes, Texas legislator and journalist. One of the books is Harriett C. Waite Van Buren Pec-ham's *History of Cornelis Messen Van Buren . . .* (New York, 1913). Among related families traced in the Van Buren history is that of General Samuel Evans. One Evans granddaughter, Anna Maria Evans, married Samuel G. Haynie, who came to Texas in 1837, located in Austin in 1839, represented Travis County in the Fifth Congress and the Second Legislature, was postmaster of Austin in 1849 and mayor in 1850 and 1851, and combined merchandising and medicine until his death in 1877. A second granddaughter, Adelaide Byrd Wells, married James Monroe Swisher of an old Austin family and lived in Austin until her death in 1864. A third granddaughter, Angelica Wells, married John L. Haynes, editor of an Austin newspaper and twice member of the legislature.

John L. and Angelica Wells Haynes had five children: James, Henry, Leonard, Mary, and Robert. It is the Leonard Haynes mementos of his father that Mrs. Haynes has presented to the Library. Included is the *Report of the Adjutant General of Texas for 1873*, a report not previously included in the Library's file. It is inscribed "Record of the First and Second Regmts. Texas Cav. Vols. Col. J. L. Haynes for my son Lenny Haynes, who will please preserve this record of my honorable service to the country." The phrase, "my honorable service to the country," may reflect a minority protest, for Haynes, although a Southerner, was a radical Unionist who was a refugee from Texas during the Civil War and returned to the state with General Nathaniel Banks in 1863 to raise a cavalry regiment for the federal service. The *Report* is that made by Forbes L. Britton, adjutant general, quartermaster and commissary general, and ex-officio paymaster, to Edmund J. Davis, governor. The Appendix gives the Muster Roll of the First and Second Regiments of the Cavalry Volunteers, has a county-by-county report on the con-

dition of the state in regard to law enforcement, and gives the location and commanding officers of the minute companies.

Also included in the gift is the Haynes Scrapbook, which on the eve of the centennial of the Civil War will furnish fresh material for telling the story of secession, war, and reconstruction. It has coverage, with varying degrees of emphasis, from 1845, when Haynes was one of the men in editorial control of the *Lexington Advertiser* of Lexington, Mississippi, down to 1880, when he made an oration on Decoration Day at Brownsville, Texas. He died in Laredo in 1887 but was buried from St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin. A Tiffany window in St. David's was given in his memory. Several autograph letters, including one from Governor E. J. Davis, interesting broadsides (including two not noted in the *Winkler Checklist*), and Haynes' marginal notes supplementing the newspaper clippings which compose the scrapbook enhance its value. The material adds to the story of Juan N. Cortina and his activities on the Rio Grande, where Haynes was considered by some to be too "simpatica" with the Mexican residents, and to the history of the struggle over secession. Because of his support of the Unionist policy of Governor Sam Houston in 1859-1860, one opposition newspaper described him as "Honorable John L. Haynes, Ambassador at the Court of Governor Houston from the County of Starr." After Texas seceded, Haynes joined the United States Army and was commissioned colonel in 1865. During the Reconstruction period he was chairman of the Executive Committee at the organization of the Republican Party and was president of the Loyal Union League of Texas. He was one of the proprietors of the *Austin Republican* and in 1868 became collector of the port of Galveston. Among the clippings in the Scrapbook are a "History of Cameron County" prepared by Haynes for July 4, 1876, and a "History of the First Texas Cavalry," written by H. C. Hunt. Haynes commented that Hunt's history came to an untimely end because some of the regiment's personnel thought that the author gave too much credit to the sergeants and not enough to the officers.

The acquisitions from Mrs. Haynes are of value in rounding out the story of a man as literate as Haynes; their greater value lies in the light they throw on other aspects of Texas history.

II

The Texas Collection has recently added to its materials by and concerning Mary Evelyn Moore Davis. A. J. H. Duganne, in his *Camps and Prisons: Twenty Months in the Department of the Gulf* (New York, 1865), related that "many pleasant Texas ladies" came to visit the Union prisoners in the corral at Camp Ford at Tyler, Texas, and that on one occasion they were "descended upon by the Texan muse in the person of sweet, but rebellious, Miss Mollie Moore." Duganne told that the "Texan Sappho" regretted that the camp orchestra did not have the music to accompany her so that she might sing for them the "Black Flag Song." Ninety years later, the publication of another person's reminiscences of Tyler, Texas, at the same period adds a page to the Moore-Duganne story, *Brokenburn, the Journal of Kate Stone, 1861-1868* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1955) carries in its entry for March 3, 1865: ". . . We are friends with the people of the town. Mollie E. Moore, a poetess, is a charming girl and we are becoming quite friends." On March 9, the journal read: "The 'Texas Song Bird' has been very kind, lending us books, among others new novels by Miss Braddon, sent her by Col. Duganne."

Because Mollie Moore had intimated that she might some day publish her impressions of the prisoners, Duganne commented:

Whether she has done so yet I cannot say: but I live in hopes of turning over, at some future day, the leaves of a handsomely-printed volume of this Texan girl's "poems" in the blue and gold of an appreciative Yankee publisher. May we all live to laugh over the little rebel's "Black Flag."

But Mollie Moore was not without honor in her own country; in 1867, two years after the publication of Duganne's book, her first volume of poems, *Minding the Gap*, came from the press of E. H. Cushing, who had already printed much of her verse in his *Houston Telegraph*.

Mary Evalina (she changed the name to Mollie Evelyn when she was about fourteen) was born in Alabama in 1844 and moved with her parents, John and Mary Ann (Crutchfield) Moore, to Texas in 1855. At various times they lived at Manchaca, San Marcos, Garden Valley, and Tyler, before Mollie joined the staff of the

Telegraph and lived, at least part of the time, in the Cushing home. She married Major Thomas E. Davis in 1874 and in 1879 moved to New Orleans, where Davis was on the staff of the *New Orleans Times* and, after 1889, editor of the *Picayune*. They had no children of their own but made a home for Pearl Moore, daughter of Mrs. Davis' brother John. This niece and foster-daughter married Paul Jahncke in 1903. The Jahncke daughter was named Mary Evelyn for Mollie Moore Davis.

Mrs. Davis became a leader in the social and literary life of New Orleans and before her death in 1909 had written twelve books of history, poetry, and fiction in addition to the several editions of *Minding the Gap*. Her Yankee publishers included Small & Maynard, Lothrop & Company, and Ginn & Company of Boston; A. C. McClurg of Chicago, and Harper and Company and Houghton-Mifflin of New York. Eighteen years after her death, Mrs. Davis had a new title—*Selected Poems by Mollie E. Moore Davis*, with the introduction by Grace King and publication by the Green Shutter Book Shop in New Orleans in 1927. The life and literary career of Mollie E. Moore Davis was the subject of a doctoral dissertation written by Clyde W. Wilkinson at the University of Illinois in 1947 under the title of "The Broadening Stream."

The one world of 1955 found the stream even broader, for that year saw the publication, in Tokyo, Japan, of Mrs. Davis' last work, *The Ships of Desire*.

The introduction is dated June 24 [1908]:

During the past six weeks in the intervals of pain, and often while almost swamped by it, I have written a new novel—or rather a novelette—for it is short, called *The Ships of Desire*. It has been something of a comfort to me to realize that the mental and spiritual *can* so dominate the physical, spite of agony. The story is not a pleasant one, but I think it about the best work I have ever done.

The novelette makes a pamphlet of sixty-five pages, the story of the alliance between a Louisiana planter and the daughter of a "femme de couleur." Its manuscript was left to Mary Evelyn Jahncke, with her great-aunt's other literary remains. In the 1930's Ichiro Nishizake, editor-in-chief of the Hukuseido Press in Tokyo, was

in New Orleans in search of material on Lafcadio Hearn and was assisted by Miss Jahncke. Subsequently he was instrumental in having her invited to Japan, where she taught English in the Tanaki Kirby Gakuin School in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and where *Ships of Desire* was printed by the Hukuseido Press.

A typescript of the Moore family genealogy has recently been added to the Archives holdings. The purchase of the Vandale Collection also added a couple of fugitive Davis items. *Tulane Songs* (Tulane University Press, 1901) include "Tulane," "The Flag and the Girl," and "Alma Mater," all composed by Mrs. Davis and sung to the tunes of "Old Kentucky Home," "Nancy Lou," and "Bonnie Dundee." An eight-page leaflet called *Antiques*, in three different printings, seems to be intended as a souvenir of an antique shop operated on Royal Street near the Davis residence in New Orleans. In addition to advertising matter and verses in praise of Café Brulot, *Antiques* contains "In New Orleans," a poem by Eugene Field dedicated to Mrs. Davis, and "The Bottle Man" by Mrs. Davis, dedicated to Field.

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Librarian, Texas History Center

